

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 TAR-01 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EA-06 /076 W

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R 241445Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6723

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, EAGR, ACP, BC

SUBJECT: EC/ACP: BOTSWANA BEEF COMPLAINT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5426

1. GOB-OWNED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS HAS MADE NO MENTION OF DR. CHIEPE'S SPEECH IN BRUSSELS ON EC VARIABLE BEEF LEVY. HOWEVER, AT LEAST THREE REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE COVERED IT. SOUTH AFRICAN PAPER WEEK END WORLD OF JUNE 15 CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED "WE'LL STARVE - BOTSWANA MINISTER TELLS EEC" IN WHICH DR. CHIEPE IS QUOTED AS HAVEING SAID THAT BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION (BMC) ABBATOIR WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN WITHIN DAYS. BULAWAYO (RHODESIA) CHRONICLE AND JOHANNESBURG STAR FEATURED NEARLY IDENTICAL ARTICLES CARRYING EXACTLY THE SAME QUOTE REGARDING THE BMC.

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2. ACCORDING TO AN AGRICULTURAL OFFICIAL, OUTLINE OF THE SPEECH

WAS WRITTEN OVER A YEAR AGO FOR DELIVERY BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE STRICTLY TO INFLUENCE EC. FIGURES IN SPEECH NOW INACCURATE. WHILE DEFENDING DR. CHIEPE SPEECH AS A JUSTIFIABLE ATTEMPT TO GET A MORE RESPONSIVE OFFER OUT OF THE EC, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS SEEM EMBARRASSED BY INACCURACIES IN SPEECH.

3. VAST MAJORITY OF BOTSWANA'S BEEF GOES TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH SOME ALSO TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL THAT BOTSWANA COULD SELL SIGNIFICANTLY MORE BEEF TO ZAMBIA AT FAVORABLE PRICES. VERY SMALL AMOUNTS ALSO GO TO HONG KONG, SWITZERLAND, AND AUSTRIA. THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO BEEF EXPORTS AT THE PRESENT TIME TO THE REST OF EUROPE. BOTSWANA LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IS IN FINANCIALLY SOUND POSITION AND SHOULD REMAIN HEALTHY EVEN WITHOUT ACCESS TO EC. SUCH ACCESS WOULD, HOWEVER, INCREASE MARKETING OPTIONS AND BE MOST DESIRABLE FOR BOTSWANA, PARTICULARLY IN REDUCING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

4. REGARDING CHIEPE STATEMENT THAT BMC WOULD BE FORCED TO CLOSE, SEVERAL GOB OFFICIALS HAVE ASSURED EMBASSY THAT BMC WILL REMAIN OPEN. RADIO BOTSWANA NEWSBROADCAST MORNING OF JUNE 23 STATED THAT DURING THE COMING QUARTER BMC WOULD PAY FARMERS SAME PRICES FOR BEEF AS IN THE LAST QUARTER.  
THOMSEN

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